

Wichita Daily Eagle

DONE WITH PUBLIC LIFE.

Frederick Douglass, the Colored Orator and Politician, Retires from Office.

The Hon. Frederick Douglass, who has long been recognized as the greatest colored man of his time, and who has been doing his noble work for the colored people of this country for more than half a century, has just announced that he is going to retire from public life. The president, he adds, has not asked for his resignation or found any fault with his action in Haiti, but he feels that he is getting too old for active service in any field, and wants to give his few remaining years in quiet with his children and grandchildren.

In thus taking leave of official life he has much to say of Haiti, and very naturally makes the best possible showing for the negro republic. And the best is bad. The island has now been free from foreign control nearly a century, and in that time there have been nine revolutions completed, besides a bewildering variety of minor "affairs" like that of following. President Hipolyte is "very firm," says Minister Douglass, and will not tolerate anarchy. To prevent it he had his soldiers shoot down all men found in the streets after the order had been given for all to retire to their homes.

In the meantime the exiles of the opposition are organizing in Jamaica. Foreigners living in Port-au-Prince are furnishing money to those insurgents, and the chances are that in a few months there will be another civil war in Haiti and a frightfully bloody one. The population is slowly decreasing. A vast majority of the people are in mourning and there are nearly twice as many women as men. Yellow fever is also prevalent. The United States naval officers there confirm all this, and add that the Mole St. Nicholas would have been ordered to the United States pursuant to the promise made by Hipolyte when he was fighting for the presidency, if a white man had been sent there as minister.

Frederick Douglass was born in February, 1817, in Talbot county, Md., his mother being a negro slave and his father his owner. He was taught to read and write by another slave, worked in a shipyard in Baltimore and suffered many privations according to his own account in "My Bondage and My Freedom." In 1838 he escaped to Massachusetts, where he married, and soon became prominent as a speaker at anti-slavery meetings. In 1845 he went to Europe and made a brilliant tour as a lecturer against slavery. In 1847 he lectured in Rochester, N. Y., and began the publication of "Frederick Douglass' Paper," afterward "The North Star." His friends had meanwhile paid his master the sum demanded and secured his freedom.

In 1870 he began to edit "The National Era" at Washington, and has since held the office of United States marshal and recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia, and various minor positions. Washington is now his home, and he lives in good style, having married a white woman after the death of his first wife and acquired a competency.

A LONG WIDOWHOOD ENDED.

After Nearly Fifty Years Mrs. Polk Follows Her Husband to the Grave.

The eighty-eight years of Mrs. James K. Polk's life were spent entirely in the state of Tennessee except when at Washington with her husband or at school in North Carolina in her youth. Her attachment to her native state was peculiarly strong and was repaid by the veneration of every citizen of it. As long as her health and strength permitted it was custom of the Tennessee legislature to call on her in a body and pay their respects once each year. Her parents were Captain Joel and Elizabeth Childress, and she was born at their residence, near Murfreesboro, on the 4th of September, 1803. At an early age she was sent to the Moravian institute at Salem, N. C., and obtained there a very thorough education. At the age of nineteen she was married to James Knox Polk, then a member of the Tennessee legislature. The next year he was elected to congress, and continued to represent the same district through fourteen consecutive sessions, only retiring in 1839 to become governor of Tennessee. Mrs. Polk was with him in Washington every winter but one, and occupied a very honored position in the society of that city.

As mistress of the White House she introduced a slightly stricter regime than had previously prevailed, dancing being discontinued and other changes made, but the American people enthusiastically approved of her course. She united with the Presbyterian church in life and was a consistent observer of its rules. June 18, 1849, the ex-president died and her long widowhood began. She suffered great losses during the war and was in such straitened circumstances that the old household was in danger of being sold, when Congress granted a pension of \$5,000 per year to each of the widows of presidents.

Turns Trance Into Trancers.

Young Prince Albert of Thurn and Taxis, in Germany, is reported to be the best dressed man in Europe. His wardrobe is really remarkable for its lavishness, and he turns the taxes of his realm into trancers, as it were.

The fact that the poet Whitman has given up his favorite walks in the woods is regarded as a new indication of his physical decline. He is over eighty, and his eyesight and hearing are quite defective.

A deceased Vienna card runner turns out to have been the Baron Erwin Schonstein, formerly a millionaire and the last member of a distinguished family.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria. When she was a Child, she clung to Castoria. When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria. When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

AMERICAN VERSATILITY.

AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE CAREER OF JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

First a Lawyer, Then a Poet, an Agitator, a Satirist, an Essayist, a Lecturer, a Politician, a Diplomatist and at the Last a Bereaved Old Man.

The recent death of James Russell Lowell, a man who in his time had "played many parts," cannot but direct attention to the fact that American men of letters are not as a rule writers solely and disinterestedly. In thus taking leave of official life he has much to say of Haiti, and very naturally makes the best possible showing for the negro republic. And the best is bad. The island has now been free from foreign control nearly a century, and in that time there have been nine revolutions completed, besides a bewildering variety of minor "affairs" like that of following. President Hipolyte is "very firm," says Minister Douglass, and will not tolerate anarchy. To prevent it he had his soldiers shoot down all men found in the streets after the order had been given for all to retire to their homes.

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With the publication of the first series of the "Biglow Papers" Mr. Lowell assumed a prominence that was his until the day of his death. He had up to then been known only as a writer and an editor. He succeeded Longfellow later on as a professor in Harvard college, traveled abroad, returned home, helped to found the Atlan-

tic Magazine, issued a second series of the "Biglow Papers" as a commentary on the civil war, poured forth his views and observations in prose and rhyme, and during the two decades ending with 1875 may be said to have covered every field of composition. Then, having achieved repute as poet, satirist, essayist, critic and platform orator, Mr. Lowell laid aside his pen for a season and turned his attention to another phase of American activity. He went into politics, made stump speeches, was chosen a presidential elector from Massachusetts and cast his vote for Rutherford B. Hayes. Mr. Hayes on assuming office was not slow to reward. He sent Mr. Lowell as minister to Spain, and three years later transferred him to the English mission. It was particularly at London that the poet-diplomat showed his ability to do those things besides make rhymes. Although he had no momentous or knotty questions to handle, he distinguished himself as a high bred, courteous and competent representative of the American republic. On a previous visit he had been made D. C. L. and LL. D. of Cambridge. During his term as United States minister, the students of the University of St. Andrews elected him lord rector. But parties rise and parties fall, so when Mr. Cleveland assumed the presidency Mr. Lowell prepared to abandon politics as cheerfully as he had taken them up. He went to Washington and introduced himself as a man "with his head under his arm" who had come to save the services of an executioner.

The remainder of his years were spent chiefly in well earned ease. He lectured some, traveled and wrote, but so eagerly and voluminously as when life was at its heyday. His first wife died nine years after marriage. His second wife was his companion for twenty-eight years. Then she, too, died, and in his old age the man who had made his mark in prose and poetry, at the college professor's desk, on the lecture platform, in politics and diplomacy saw with indifference the lamp of ambition flicker and die. His first poem brought him no compensation for his last short production, "My Brook," he received \$1,000. He had years and honors and fame, yet he was glad to go. "Why can't you let an old man die?" he asked his daughter. Then he turned his face to the wall and his soul went forth on the wings of a sigh of peace.



THE LOWELL HOMESTEAD.

Rest had come to the restless, and the brilliant and busy brain was no more.

FRED C. DAYTON.

TRYING TO MAKE RAIN.

Some Experiments That May Prove Successful.

General Dyerforth has exploded his experimental bomb near Midland, Tex., and rain has followed. It was a fairly good rain, too, and came but twelve hours after the experiment. But of course one such experiment proves nothing, especially at a season when rain is likely to come at any time.

The general himself is not at all confident, but thinks the trial will result in great gain even if it proves the negative, for there is a widespread belief that artificially produced rain is the cause of the atmosphere cause rain, and if such is not the case it is well to know it. The main difficulty lies in the fact that the nearest earth is often superheated in hot weather and therefore "holds up" the rain. The rain stratum lies above that, perhaps a mile high, and observations show that light rains often start from it and are vaporized in the dry belt stratum below and so sent up again. Hence the scheme to send up balloons and the exploded in the moist stratum. Senator Fairwell, of Illinois, was the first statesman to take any interest in the theory, and secured a small appropriation for experiments. Aside from the question of rain, however, many valuable observations will be made by scientific men connected with the expedition, testing the effects of concussion on the air. From time immemorial sailors and farmers have insisted that the moon had some influence on the weather, but scientists have never been able to prove their theory false or true. But as to the theory of concussion making rain, General Dyerforth's experiment has proved—certainly one way or the other. It may be, of course, that rain can be artificially produced, but "not in paying quantities," as miners say. We can only wait.

Production of Coal in the South.

According to a recent census bulletin the production of coal in the states of West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, Georgia and North Carolina is reported for 1889 at 11,442,368 short tons, valued at \$10,932,889. The production for the same states at the tenth census was 8,469,336 short tons, valued at \$4,110,162. The increase of quantity and decrease in ton value are the two facts worthy of notice.

An Old Time Minstrel.

The oldest negro minstrel in America with one exception, is said to be Paul Berger, the tinker of a Philadelphia police station. He is now sixty-five years, and is still noted for a melodious bass voice. In his prime he sang before the emperors Van Buren and Polk at private audiences.

Echolocoons, bred in man by the kiss of a dog, is the newest malady, both human and canine. "Love me, love my dog," is all well enough, but if the discoverer of echolocoons is right this infection is safe, must be kept outside of family limits.

Her Attraction.

Clara—Charlie Jackson prefers blond girls.

Laura—Indeed! I am quite a brunette, you know, and he is always very attentive to me.

Clara—Probably because your income is fair.—Munsey's Weekly.

A CHILD'S LAUGHTER.

All the bells of heaven may ring,
All the birds of heaven may sing,
All the wells of earth may spring,
All the winds of earth may bring
All sweet sounds together:
Sweeter far than all things heard,
Hand of harp, tone of bird,
Sound of woods at sundown stirred,
Welling water's winsome word,
Wind in warm weather.

One thing yet there is that none
Hearing ere its chime be done
Knows not well the sweetest one
Heard of on earth beneath the sun:
Hoped in heaven beyond,
Soft and strong and loud and light,
Very sound of very light,
Heard from the morning's rosiest height,
When the soul of all delight
Fills a child's clear laughter.

—A. G. SWINBURNE in Church Quarterly Review.

THE CRADLE BARS THE WAY.

A Woman Tells Why a Wife and Mother
Is Pleasant or Unpleasant. It is none
The least an absolute truth—the reason d'être
Of a woman's maternity. For this and
This alone nature has differentiated her
From man, and built her up cell by cell
And organ by organ. The continuance of
The race in healthy reproduction, together
With the fit nourishment and the care of the
Young after birth, is the ultimate end of
Woman as such, and whatever tells against
These functions and reduces either her
Power or her perfectness is an offense
Against nature and a wrong done to society.

If she chooses to decline her natural
Office altogether, and to dedicate to other
Services a life which has no sympathy with
The sex of humanity, that comes into her
Lawful list of preferences and disorders.
But neither nor while she is one with
The rest, a wife and mother like others, is
She free to blaspheme her assigned func-
tions; nor yet to set about such under-
takings as shall militate against the healthy
performance of her first great natural duty
and her first great social obligation.

The cradle bars the door of the
politics booth and bars the way to the sen-
ate. We can conceive nothing more dis-
astrous to a woman in any stage of mat-
ernity, expectant or accomplished, than the
heated passions and turmoil of a political
campaign; for we may put out of court three
allies—the vote, if obtained at all, is
to be confined to widows and spinsters
only; that enfranchised women will con-
tent themselves with the vote and not seek
after active office, and that they will bring
into the world of politics the sweetness and
claim for them by their adherents,
and not, on the contrary, their own
shriller excitement to the men's deeper
passions.

Nor must we forget that the franchise
for women would not simply allow a few
well conducted, well educated, self re-
specting gentlewomen to go to record
their preference for liberalism or con-
servatism, but would let in the far wider
flood of the uneducated, the unrestrained,
the irrational and emotional—those who
know nothing and imagine all—those
whose presence and participation on all
public questions madden already excited
masses.

We have no right to suppose that hu-
man nature is to be changed for our bene-
fit, and that the influence of sex is to be-
come a dead letter because certain among
us wish it so. What has been will be
again. In the mirror of the prophet, which
prophesied the Eastern woman of the
revolution will be repeated wherever
analogous conditions exist, and to admit
women into active participation in politics
will certainly be to increase disorder and
add fuel to the fire of strife.—Mrs. Lynn
Linton in Nineteenth Century.

Forms on a Dinner Table.

A very beautiful table decoration was
seen at a dinner party given by a hostess
recently for her taste and originality. The
cloth, which was of the finest damask, dis-
playing a design of ferns, the center figure
being an exquisitely drawn wreath of the
fronds, while the border was formed of
sprays of the most delicate mosses, used
but each silver dish was surrounded by a
wreath of ferns, which kept perfectly fresh
during the service of the course.

All the crystal water was exquisitely en-
graved with ferns, while the Dresden china
service gave the tone of warmth and color
with its pure rose and gold tints. An
ideal dinner decoration was the universal
comment, and far more effective than the
elaborated floral hangings which have pre-
vailed during the past season.—Boston
Herald.

What is a Flirt?

Somebody wrote and asked me to define
a flirt. It seems unnecessary when the
dictionary meaning is worded in such
 terse Saxon terms. There has been some
degree of fascination about the word, but
by a perversion of its meaning, but it is
quite time to apply it only in its true sense,
and the appellation is far from being a com-
plimentary one.

You want to act a lie! Then flirt.
You care to lose the modest charm of
manner which is woman's best heritage
and man's too infrequently found attribute?
Then play to love.

You want your future life embittered
by memories which will stab you when
your heart is beating with happiness? Then
cheat some one into giving you true regard
for falsehood.

If you would be womanly, my woman
reader, or manly, my manly questioner,
give your esteem to those who are your true
friends, and your heart's warm, earnest
love to one man or one woman, and let
it be unshared by the flirtation which
many count in triumph on the fingers of
falsehood.

Distances Lead, Etc.

"Don't you like to hear some one singing
on the water far away?" she asked.

"Yes," he murmured, "far away."—Life.

An Awful Thought.

—A. G. SWINBURNE in Church Quarterly Review.

Sis—Athelstan, I am unhappy.

Sis—Why?

Sis—I think you'd love me better if I
was a blond.—Life.

Tut's Pills

possess these qualities, and speedily re-
store to the bowels the normal peristaltic
motion, so essential to regularity.

OPEN AIR BATHING.

Practical Rules for Escaping Chills or
Other Injurious Effects.

The following instructions, accredited to
the Royal Humane society, of England, are
of special interest at this season, when sea
and river bathing are indulged in by such
great numbers of people:

Avoid bathing within two hours after a
meal.

Avoid bathing when exhausted by fatigue
or from any other cause.

Avoid bathing when the body is cooling
after perspiration.

Avoid bathing altogether in the open air
if, after having been a short time in the
water, there is a cold or shivering, with
numbness of the hands and feet, but bathe
when the body is warm, providing no time
is lost in getting into the water.

Avoid chilling the body by sitting or
standing undressed on the banks or in boats
after having been in the water.

Avoid remaining too long in the water,
but leave the water immediately there is
the slightest feeling of chilliness. The
vigorous and strong may bathe early in
the morning on an empty stomach. The
young and those who are weak had better
bathe in two or three hours after a meal,
the best time for such from two to three
hours after breakfast. Those who are sub-
ject to attacks of giddiness or faintness, and
those who suffer from palpitation or other
sense of discomfort at the heart, should not
bathe without consulting their medical ad-
viser.

Complicated Anger.

Glibly—You say your wife is in a bad
humor?

Pennybunter—Yes, she is.

"What is she angry about?"

"In the first place, she got angry at the
servant girl, then she got angry at me be-
cause I didn't get angry at the servant girl,
and now she is angry at herself be-
cause I got angry at her because she got
angry at the servant girl. Do you under-
stand?"—Tit-Bits.

Ask my agents for W. L. Douglas Shoes.

If you want the best shoe in the world for
the money, ask my agents for W. L. Douglas
Shoes. They are the best shoe in the world
for the money. They are the best shoe in
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FOR GENTLEMEN

WHY IS THE

W. L. DOUGLAS

\$3 SHOE

THE BEST SHOE IN THE WORLD FOR THE MONEY?

It is because it is made of the best material,
and it is made by the best workmen, and it
is made for the best purpose. It is made
for the purpose of giving you the best shoe
in the world for the money. It is made for
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